Un Llais Cymru

One Voice Wales

Community & Town Councils

Biodiversity Action Plan 2026-2028

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Name of Community & Town Council:	**Chepstow Town Council**
Council type (Group 1, 2 or 3):	**2**

Introduction and Context

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Chepstow Town Council comprises 7 wards with 11,934 residents and is represented by 19 Councillors. The budget for 2023/2024 was £680,238, 2024/25 £746,275 and 2025/26 £780,894.

Services provided by the Town Council are managed and delivered by a team of twelve part-time employees comprising of the Town Clerk/RFO who is supported by a Deputy Town Clerk, Communications Officer, Community Projects and Events Officer and Administration Officer. In addition, there are two Hygiene Maintenance Operatives, one Street Cleansing Operative, Security Operative, Maintenance Operative, the Drill Hall Arts Administrator and Venue Assistant.

Chepstow is located in south-east Wales in the county of Monmouthshire with the Wales border with England to its eastern side. The River Wye flows through Chepstow and the Severn Estuary runs adjacent to (but outside the boundary of) Chepstow. The area is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Wales Coast Path heads west from Chepstow following the entire coast of Wales and the Offa's Dike Path begins in Chepstow and heads north taking you along the entirety of the Wales/England border.

The town centre boasts a castle and ancient port wall dating back to 1067. In the 18th and 19th centuries Chepstow was a busy port and shipyard, and some of the historic buildings date back to the 11th century. The name Chepstow derives from the Old English words "Chepe" and "Stowe" meaning market place and as the name suggests, Chepstow grew and prospered, as a market centre for the local farmers.

Chepstow is very hilly which makes active transport difficult for many residents. The town is also bisected by the A48, one of the South Wales 'trunk roads'. There is a permanent air quality monitoring station sited on the A48 and Chepstow Town Council participate in Monmouthshire County Council Air Quality meetings.

The M48 (previously the main M4 route) connect Chepstow to the M4 main artery from South Wales to London, and is the location of the Severn Bridge, which was opened in 1966 linking to Gloucestershire on the English side of the River Severn.

Chepstow Town Council do not own any land, meaning that all land based biodiversity enhancement must take place in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council, community stakeholder or other relevant authorities, such as South Wales Trunk Road Agency.

Chepstow Town Councils vision states that it is proud to be the Green Gateway to Wales, A Destination for the Arts, A Town of Proud Historic Significance. The Council strive to make decisions and drive changes that create a greener and more sustainable future for Chepstow and its residents, aiming for a Net Zero Chepstow.

Transforming Chepstow

Chepstow Town Council has worked with Monmouthshire County Council on developing a Transforming Chepstow masterplan which involved community engagement and consultants. The masterplan was adopted by both Monmouthshire County Council and Chepstow Town Council and the projects within the document can be used to support grant fund applications from the Welsh Government and other resources. A proportion of these projects are focussed on Biodiversity.

NRAP Aim	Actions planned	Time scale	Monitored by:
1. Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience Protect remaining habitats, restore degraded areas, effectively manage ecosystems in ways that build resilience to climate change	Using UK Governemt funding, Chepstow Town Council (CTC) will work with Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) to develop an area of land into a community growing space. • CTC will seek advice from MCC and contractors on biodiversity and land management. • CTC will consult with landowners (County Council) regarding SUDS • CTC will consult with residents on any projects on MCC land.	March 2027	E&A Committee
	The council will look at the plants used for planters in terms of having a positive impact on biodiversity.	**September 2026**	**Clerk**
	CTC will continue to support Chepstow Community Orchards with: • administrative organisation, publicity/social media, finding volunteers and lead volunteers, updating volunteer database • ad hoc communications – enquiries, discussions about tree planting • The essential works of 'Winter pruning session coordination (8 x ½ day sessions) liaising with the lead volunteers and finding other volunteers to assist.	**Ongoing**	**E&A Committee**
	The Council will continue to promote biodiversity grants on our platforms	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

	The council will support the volunteers who water the planters by covering them with Council's Public Liability Insurance following cessation of the group who was providing insurance.	**Onoing**	**Clerk**
	Continue to support Keep Chepstow Tidy who undertake litter picks monthly. Share details on social media. The Council Public Liability Insurance policy will be reviewed in terms of minimum age of volunteers. If children under 16 can be covered, KCT will use council's insurance.	**End 2026**	**Clerk**

2. Safeguard species and improve their management.	The Council will information the community about protected species		
	The Council will promote Bee Walks and devise its own nature calendar to promote biodiversity events and citizen science programmes.		
	Any OVW Biodiversity packages availalbe will be shared with E&A Committee.	**Ongoing**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**
	E&A Committee will review criteria for becoming a Bee Friendly Town	**May 2027**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**
	Council officers will devise a new stock control system for each public toilet with a view to reduce wastage of cleaning products.	**July 2026**	**Clerk**
	The Council will continue to offer gazebos for hire and no cost to community groups.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	The council will promote the correct use of Dog Bins to reduce overfilling whcih causes litter.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

	Review all planters in the town to assess if any need attention.	**September 2026**	**Clerk**
	Review Bulwark Garden to assess if site needs attention.	**September 2026**	**Clerk**
	Install 2 new notice boards in Thornwell area – one which will be updated regularly with community event information and one which will give visitors information about Chepstow.	**October 2026**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**

3. Tackle key pressures on species, habitats and ecosystems.	Office staff will walk to work where possible. Remote meetings will be scheduled where possible.	**Ongoing**	**Everyone**
	Council will review electric bicycle to purchase for mainentance operative.	**September 2026**	**Clerk/Full Council**
	CTC will work alongside Gwent Wildlife Trust to promote projects that protect and increase protected species.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	CTC will use its social media prescence to promote awareness of biodiversity actions they can take in their own homes and gardens.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	CTC will explore the possibility of installation of solar panels at the offices and building it owns.	**May 2027**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**
	Review possibility of creating nesting habitats at Gatehouse, Old Library, Drill Hall	**May 2027**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**
	CTC will promote the LERC app to residents. (Local Environment Record Centres)	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

	CTC will promote sites in the local area where you can see nature. e.g. Riverbank, Piercefield house	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	Review use of peat free compost in planters.	**March 2027**	**Clerk**

4. Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.	Council will ensure any impact on biodiversity is considered in every decision made.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	The E&A Comittee will take responsibility for delivering the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and produce documents for all biodiversity related issues to bring to Full Council for approval. Committe will continue to meet bi-monthly. Feedback is given to Full Council.	**Ongoing**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**
	Review funding available for biodiversity and add to next budget. Council will review whre to focus the budget e.g. Biodiversity, promotion, buildings. Review how to monitor where money is being spent.	**Next budget**	**Full Council/Clerk**
	Impacts on local and global biodiversity will be considered when considering projects, choosing contractors, banking providers, insurance, asset purchase and maintenance.	**Ongoing**	**Full Council**
	Planning committee will refer to the OVW Planning and biodiversity guide when responding to planning applications in its role as statutory consultee.	**Ongoing**	**Planning Committee**
	A biodiversity clause will be added to the hire agreement for The Drill Hall to ensure that hirers do not adversely impact biodiversity. e.g. no balloons, recycle plastic and food waste.	**Ongoing**	**Drill Hall Committee/ Clerk**
	Grant application forms will have a section about how the applying organisation is helping biodiversity.	**Ongoing**	**Full Council**

	Section 6 Action plan will be reviewed annually at final meeting of the calendar year and Report completed by 31/12/28	**End 2028**	**Clerk/Full Council**
	E&A committee will discuss possibility of appointing a dedicated council member for biodiverstity issues.	**End 2026**	**E&A Committee/ Clerk**
	Council will join mailing list of Local Nature Partnership for volunteering opportunities and local nature news	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

5. Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.	Council will review its Vision in order to have more clarification on some of the wording. e.g. What does greener mean?, How do we get to net zero?	**May 2027**	**Full Council**
	A section on the Council website will be developed to include information on biodiversity to engage with the community to explain why biodiversity is important.		
	Section 6 report will be shared on Council's website and with One Voice Wales	**December 2028**	**Clerk**
	Discuss development of a sustainability policy. Council officers will research other councils policies to learn from others.	**Ongoing**	**Full Council/ Clerk**
	Continue to inform councillors of training opportunities.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	Continue to work with and support local charities and organisations with a focus on sustainability e.g. WWT, Friends of the River Wye, Community fridge	**Ongoing**	**Full Council/E&A Committee**
	Review contracts, policies, procurement methods, products, travel, maintenance under lens of biodiversity and climate impact.	**Ongoing**	**Full Council/Clerk**
	Biodiversity-themed solutions will be actively sought out. Don't choose easiest or first option every time.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

	Write and implement a sustainable procurement policy.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

6. Improve our evidence and monitoring.	Monitor council owned or managed sites for sustainable improvements that can be made. e.g. Drill Hall, Old Library, Toilets.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	Seek advice on which Section 7 priority species and habitats are present in the area.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**
	Opportunities to work with local charities and organisations will be discussed.	**Ongoing**	**E&A Committee**
	Always try to improve council understanding of ecological and climate topics and how they impact our daily lives e.g. training, reading, research	**Ongoing**	**E&A Committee**
	Full Council will be advised on any training available.	**Ongoing**	**Clerk**

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Annual review of the Biodiversity Action Plan			
Date reviewed:	**/2026**	**/2027**	**/2028**
What has worked well?			
What have the barriers been?			
What will you change?			

Review approved:	**/2026**	**/2027**	**/2028**
Next review:	**/2027**	**/2028**	

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Table 1: Types of organisations and possible s6 actions relative to their functions

Group	Description of organisation relative to biodiversity. Organisations:	Minimum Actions	Examples	NRAP aim for Planning
1	• that own or occupy an office building only and • whose functions are not directly connected to biodiversity and/or land management.	Actions related to buildings management, procurement, sustainability, awareness raising, training, or in partnership with other organisations	Commissions, DVLA, Health Boards	NRAP aims: 3, 4, 5
2	• that own, occupy or manage land their own buildings and grounds, • whose functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management, or • that can influence those who own or manage land.	As per Group 1 above PLUS grounds management, cascading funding criteria, providing education and training	Public Health Wales, Universities, Sport Wales,	NRAP aims: 3, 4, 5 as above NRAP aims: 1, 2, 6 relating to own grounds
3	• that own or manage land beyond their own grounds, whether their functions are connected with biodiversity and/or land management or not.	As per Groups 1 and 2 above PLUS land management to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.	Dŵr Cymru, Local Authorities, NRW, Welsh Government	All NRAP aims

NRAP Aim 3: Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

NRAP Aim 4: Establish effective governance and capacity to deliver.

NRAP Aim 5: Embed biodiversity through engagement and awareness raising to support effective decision making at every level.

NRAP Aim 1: Protect, restore and effectively manage ecosystems to build their resilience.

NRAP Aim 2: Safeguard species and improve their management.

NRAP Aim 6: Improve our evidence and monitoring.